

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A surgical probe, comprising:
a single, relatively short tubular shaft defining a distal region and a proximal region;
a coagulation element configured to emit energy for coagulating tissue and forming a lesion within tissue, the coagulation element defining a coagulation element configuration on the distal region of the relatively short tubular shaft; and
a stimulation element configured to emit energy to tissue for stimulating tissue and evaluating formation of the lesion, the stimulation element defining a stimulation element configuration on the distal region of the same relatively short tubular shaft, the stimulation element configuration being different than the coagulation element configuration.
2. (Original) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stimulation element comprises a stimulation electrode.
3. (Original) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 2, wherein the coagulation element comprises a coagulation electrode.
4. (Original) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 3, wherein the coagulation electrode defines a coagulation electrode length, the stimulation electrode defines a stimulation electrode length, and the coagulation electrode length is greater than the stimulation electrode length.
5. (Original) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stimulation element comprises a stimulation electrode pair.

6. (Original) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coagulation element comprises at least two longitudinally spaced coagulation electrodes, the respective size and spacing of the at least two coagulation electrodes being such that simultaneous transmission of energy thereby to an indifferent electrode will produce an area of coagulated tissue that spans the at least two coagulation electrodes.

7. (Withdrawn - Previously Amended) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coagulation element comprises a plurality of longitudinally spaced coagulation elements and the stimulation element comprises a plurality stimulation elements, a stimulation element being located between a pair of adjacent coagulation elements on the relatively short tubular shaft.

8. (Previously Amended) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the distal region of the relatively short tubular shaft is malleable.

9. (Previously Amended) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a handle associated with the proximal region of the relatively short tubular shaft.

10. (Original) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stimulation element is located distally of the coagulation element.

11-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A surgical system, comprising:
a source of coagulation energy;
a source of stimulation energy; and
a surgical probe, adapted to be operably connected to the source of coagulation energy and the source of stimulation energy, the surgical probe including a single, relatively short tubular shaft defining a distal region and a proximal region, a coagulation element configured to emit energy for coagulating tissue and forming a lesion within tissue, the coagulation element defining a coagulation element configuration on the distal region of the relatively short tubular shaft, and a stimulation element configured to emit energy to tissue for stimulating tissue and evaluating formation of the lesion, the stimulation element defining a stimulation element configuration on the distal region of the same relatively short tubular shaft, the stimulation element configuration being different than the coagulation element configuration.
28. (Original) A surgical system as claimed in claim 27, further comprising:
a coagulation energy line connected to the coagulation element and to a coagulation energy connector configured to be connected to the source of coagulation energy; and
a stimulation energy line connected to the stimulation element and to a stimulation energy connector configured to be connected to the source of stimulation energy.
29. (Original) A surgical system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the coagulation energy connector and stimulation energy connector define different configurations.

30. (Currently Amended) A surgical system, comprising:
a source of coagulation energy;
a source of stimulation energy; and
a surgical probe, adapted to be operably connected to the source of coagulation energy and the source of stimulation energy, the surgical probe including a relatively short shaft defining a distal region and a proximal region, a handle associated with the proximal region of the relative short shaft, a coagulation element configured to emit energy for coagulating tissue and forming a lesion within tissue, the coagulation element defining a coagulation element configuration on the distal region of the relatively short shaft, and a stimulation element configured to emit energy to tissue for stimulating tissue and evaluating formation of the lesion, the stimulation element defining a stimulation element configuration on the distal region of the relatively short shaft, the stimulation element configuration being different than the coagulation element configuration, wherein the coagulation energy connector is carried by the handle and the stimulation energy line extends through the handle.
31. (Original) A surgical system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the stimulation element comprises a stimulation electrode.
32. (Original) A surgical system as claimed in claim 31, wherein the coagulation element comprises a coagulation electrode.
33. (Original) A surgical system as claimed in claim 32, wherein the coagulation electrode defines a coagulation electrode length, the stimulation electrode defines a stimulation electrode length, and the coagulation electrode length is greater than the stimulation electrode length.
34. (Original) A surgical system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the coagulation element comprises at least two longitudinally spaced coagulation electrodes, the respective size and spacing of the at least two coagulation electrodes being such that simultaneous transmission of energy thereby to an indifferent electrode will produce an area of coagulated tissue that spans the at least two coagulation electrodes.

35. (Previously Amended) A surgical system as claimed in claim 27, wherein at least a portion of the relatively short tubular shaft is malleable.
36. (Previously Amended) A surgical system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the source of stimulation energy is configured for monitoring electrical impulses sensed by the stimulation element.
37. (Withdrawn) A surgical system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the coagulation element comprises a plurality of longitudinally spaced coagulation elements and the stimulation element comprises a plurality of located between respective pairs of adjacent coagulation elements.
38. (Withdrawn) A surgical system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the coagulation element comprises a pair of longitudinally spaced coagulation elements and the stimulation element is located between the coagulation elements.
39. (Previously Amended) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coagulation element and the stimulation element are carried on the same relatively short tubular shaft such that the coagulation element and the stimulation element are longitudinally fixed relative to one another.
40. (Previously Amended) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the distal portion of the relatively short tubular shaft includes a unitary outer member and the coagulation element and the stimulation element are both carried on the unitary outer member.
41. (Canceled).
42. (Previously Presented) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coagulation element and the stimulation element define respective diameters and the diameter of the coagulation element is substantially equal to the diameter of the stimulation element.

43. (Previously Amended) A surgical system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the coagulation element and the stimulation element are carried on the same relatively short tubular shaft such that the coagulation element and the stimulation element longitudinally fixed relative to one another.

44. (Previously Amended) A surgical system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the distal portion of the relatively short tubular shaft includes a unitary outer member and the coagulation element and the stimulation element are both carried on the unitary outer member.

45. (Canceled).

46. (Previously Presented) A surgical system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the coagulation element and the stimulation element define respective diameters and the diameter of the coagulation element is substantially equal to the diameter of the stimulation element.

47. (Previously Amended) A surgical probe, comprising:
a single, relatively short tubular shaft defining a distal region and a proximal region;
means for coagulating tissue on the distal region of the relatively short tubular shaft and forming a lesion within tissue; and
means, having a different configuration than the means for coagulating tissue, for stimulating tissue on the distal region of the same relatively short tubular shaft and evaluating formation of the lesion.

48. (Previously Amended) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 47, wherein at least a portion of the distal region of the relative short tubular shaft is malleable.

49. (Previously Amended) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 47, further comprising: a handle associated with the proximal region of the relatively short tubular shaft.

50. (Previously Presented) A surgical probe as claimed in claim 47, wherein the means for stimulating tissue is located distally of the means for coagulating tissue.
51. (Previously Presented) The surgical probe of claim 1, wherein the relatively short tubular shaft is linear.
52. (Previously Presented) The surgical probe of claim 27, wherein the relatively short tubular shaft is linear.
53. (Previously Presented) The surgical probe of claim 9, wherein the relatively short tubular shaft is coaxial with the handle.
54. (Previously Presented) The surgical probe of claim 49, wherein the relatively short tubular shaft is coaxial with the handle.